United Nations S/2007/761

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 December 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2007 from the Acting Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia (see annex), which covers the Committee's activities during the period 1 January to 31 December 2007. The report is submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council dated 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Leslie K. **Christian**
Acting Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

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Annex

Annual report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007.

2. For 2007, the bureau consisted of Dumisani S. Kumalo (South Africa) as Chairman, with the delegations of Ghana and Slovakia providing the Vice-Chairmen.

3. During the reporting period, the Committee held six informal meetings.

II. Background

4. By resolution 733 (1992), the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Somalia, and by resolution 751 (1992) established a Committee to oversee the implementation of the embargo. Subsequently, in resolutions 1356 (2001), 1425 (2002), 1744 (2007) and 1772 (2007), the Council outlined certain exemptions to the embargo and further elaborated the scope of the measures.

5. During the reporting period, by resolution 1766 (2007) of 23 July 2007, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to re-establish, for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group on Somalia referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004). The re-established Monitoring Group was mandated, inter alia, to: continue the tasks outlined in paragraphs 3 (a) to (c) of resolution 1587 (2005) (i.e., investigate the implementation, and violations, of the arms embargo and make recommendations); continue to investigate, in coordination with relevant international agencies, all activities, including in the financial, maritime and other sectors, which generated revenues used to commit arms embargo violations; continue to investigate any means of transport, routes, seaports, airports and other facilities used in connection with arms embargo violations; continue refining and updating information on the draft list of those individuals and entities who violated the measures implemented by Member States in accordance with resolution 733 (1992), inside and outside Somalia, and their active supporters, for possible future measures by the Council, and present such information to the Committee as and when the Committee deemed appropriate; continue making recommendations based on its investigations, and on the previous reports of the Panel of Experts and the Monitoring Group; work closely with the Committee on specific recommendations for additional measures to improve overall compliance with the arms embargo; assist in identifying areas where the capacities of States in the region can be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of the arms embargo; provide the Council, through the Committee, with a midterm briefing within 90 days of its establishment; submit progress reports to the Committee on a monthly basis; and submit for the Security Council's

consideration, a final report covering all the tasks set out above, no later than 15 days prior to the termination of the mandate of the Monitoring Group.

6. By its resolution 1766 (2007), the Council requested the Committee, in consultation with the Monitoring Group and other United Nations entities, to consider the recommendations in the reports of the Monitoring Group dated 5 April and 16 October 2006 and 17 July 2007, and recommend to the Council ways to improve the implementation of and compliance with the arms embargo in response to continuing violations. By paragraph 13 of its resolution 1772 (2007), the Council emphasized the continued contribution made to Somalia's peace and security by the arms embargo, demanded that all Member States, particularly those in the region, fully comply with it, and reiterated its intention to consider urgently ways to strengthen its effectiveness. In this regard, the Council also requested the Committee to report to the Council on possible measures that might be taken and how they might be implemented, within 60 days from the adoption of the resolution.

III. Summary of the Committee's activities

7. On 13 March 2007, the Committee held informal consultations to consider a progress report of the Monitoring Group and decided to reiterate the invitations to the States mentioned in the report of the Monitoring Group dated 22 November 2006 (S/2006/913) to participate in a meeting of the Committee, and to schedule informal consultations accordingly. On 27 April 2007, the Committee received the midterm briefing of the Monitoring Group, re-established pursuant to resolution 1724 (2006), and on 10 June, the Chairman provided an account of the discussion to the Security Council, pursuant to paragraph 3 (h) of the same resolution.

8. In 2007 two States (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Saudi Arabia) provided written observations to the findings contained in the report of the Monitoring Group (S/2006/913). On 1 and 4 May 2007, the Committee held informal consultations with the representatives of the Republic of Djibouti, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic, in connection with the findings contained in the report of the Monitoring Group. As a result of the discussion, the Committee wrote to the Monitoring Group to request that, in preparing its final report, it take into account the information presented by delegations who attended the discussion and by those that provided written observations. The Committee also requested the Monitoring Group, in fulfilling its mandate according to relevant resolutions, to continue providing States with adequate time and opportunities to respond and verify the information collected by the Monitoring Group. In addition, the Committee wrote to the concerned States, encouraging them to cooperate with the Monitoring Group.

9. On 17 July 2007, the Committee received a presentation by the Monitoring Group on its final report (S/2007/436) and held a discussion on the recommendations contained therein. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 1724 (2006), the Committee decided to take no further action with regard to the recommendations contained in previous reports of the Monitoring Group, dated 22 November 2006 (S/2006/913) and 4 May 2006 (S/2006/229), in light of the fundamental change of circumstances on the ground. On 11 September 2007, the Chairman of the Committee briefed the Council in informal

consultations, in connection with the Committee's consideration of the final report of the Monitoring Group (S/2007/436), as well as with its conclusions concerning the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned reports of the Monitoring Group.

10. On 5 October 2007, the Committee held informal consultations to discuss the Council's request, pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 1772 (2007), to make recommendations on measures the Council might adopt to strengthen the effectiveness of the arms embargo. The Committee decided that the Chairman would address a note verbale to all Member States recalling the Council's demand regarding the implementation of the arms embargo. On 24 October 2007, the Chairman reported to the Council, in informal consultations, that the Committee would continue its consideration of the important matter of possible measures to strengthen the effectiveness and the implementation of the arms embargo, drawing also as necessary on the technical advice of the Monitoring Group.

11. During the reporting period, the Monitoring Group continued to provide periodic informal reports on its activities and findings to the Committee.

12. During the reporting period, the Committee received two notifications in connection with exemptions regarding supplies of non-lethal military equipment, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1356 (2001).

IV. Conclusions and observations

13. In 2007 the Committee engaged in a direct dialogue with concerned States and continued its consideration of ways to strengthen full compliance with the arms embargo on Somalia. As in the past, the Committee continues to rely on the Monitoring Group for information on violations of the arms embargo, and on the cooperation of States and organizations towards its implementation.